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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/719,015	12/06/2000	Yoshihito Ishibashi	450108-02585	3145

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EXAMINER

HOFFMAN, BRANDON S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2171

DATE MAILED: 11/07/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/719,015

Applicant(s)

ISHIBASHI ET AL.

Examiner

Brandon Hoffman

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 December 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it contains reference numbers. The last sentence of the abstract needs the numbers 51 and 201 to be removed. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

- On page 11, last line, "An embodiments" should be ~~Embodiments~~.
- On page 25, second from last line, "> = (equal of smaller)" should be ~~<= (equal or smaller) – or could be – >= (equal or larger) –~~.
- On page 67, line 6, "(6-4)" should be ~~–(6-5) –~~.
 - All numbers under the 6 category following page 67 (e.g. page 70, (6-5 and page 73)), should be renumbered to reflect the correction on page 67
- On page 79, line 16, "CB (Cipher Block Chaining)" should be ~~–CBC (Cipher Block Chaining) –~~.

Appropriate correction is required.

The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of the Specification

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If

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no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC (See 37 CFR 1.52(e)(5) and MPEP 608.05. Computer program listings (37 CFR 1.96(c)), "Sequence Listings" (37 CFR 1.821(c)), and tables having more than 50 pages of text are permitted to be submitted on compact discs.) or REFERENCE TO A "MICROFICHE APPENDIX" (See MPEP § 608.05(a). "Microfiche Appendices" were accepted by the Office until March 1, 2001.)
- (e) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
 - (1) Field of the Invention.
 - (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (f) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.
- (g) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
- (h) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
- (i) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (j) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

With regards to the arrangement of the specification, applicant should add 'TITLE OF THE INVENTION' to the beginning of the specification. The other headings are considered correct.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112 – 2nd Paragraph

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

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2. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted structural cooperative relationships are:

- Regarding claims 1-4, 6, and 7, there are no connections between the parts of the information processing apparatus/method.
- Regarding claim 5, this claim is dependent upon claim 4, and therefore inherits its deficiencies.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Matsuzaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,289,314).

Regarding claims 1-3, Matsuzaki et al. teaches an information processing apparatus/method which is connected to other information processing

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apparatuses and which decrypts and uses encrypted information under the control of a control apparatus (figure 2), characterized by comprising:

- Storage means for storing appropriate proxy account settlement information for said other information processing apparatuses (figure 3, reference number 254);
- Requesting means for requesting said other information processing apparatuses to provide appropriate accounting information according to said proxy account settlement information stored in said storage means (figure 3, reference number 253);
- First reception means for receiving said accounting information sent by said other information processing apparatuses in response to the request from said requesting means (figure 2, reference number 24);
- Sending means for sending said accounting information received by said first reception means to said control apparatus (figure 2, connection between 24 and 25);
- Second reception means for receiving the registration conditions prepared based on the results of the account settlement performed according to said accounting information sent by said sending means and received from said control apparatus (figure reference number 223); and
- Control means for controlling the operation, based on said registration conditions received by said second reception means (figure 2, reference number 2).

Regarding claims 3 and 7, specifically, Matsuzaki et al. teaches a providing medium that provides a computer-readable program for executing a process to an information processing apparatus (column 25, lines 28-48).

Regarding claims 4, 6, and 7, Matsuzaki et al. teaches an information processing apparatus/method which is connected to other information processing apparatuses and which decrypts and uses encrypted information under the control of a control apparatus (figure 2), characterized by comprising:

- First storage means for storing appropriate proxy purchase information for said other information processing apparatuses (figure 3, reference number 254);
- First preparation means for preparing appropriate accounting information according to said proxy purchase information stored in said first storage means (figure 3, reference number 255);
- Second preparation means for preparing appropriate usage control status according to said proxy purchase information stored in said first storage means (figure 3, reference number 255);
- Second storage means for storing said accounting information prepared by said first preparation means (figure 2, reference number 223); and
- Sending means for sending said usage control status prepared by said second preparation means and the key necessary to decrypt said encrypted information supplied by said control apparatus (figure 2, reference number 24).

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Regarding claim 5, Matsuzaki et al. teaches when said other information processing apparatuses comprise:

- A display control means for controlling appropriate display (column 14, lines 30-35); and
- An input control means for controlling the input of appropriate data (column 15, lines 20-37),
 - Said first preparation means prepares said accounting information based on the data entered into said input control means with reference to said display controlled by said display means (column 15, lines 24-29), and
 - Said second preparation means prepares said usage control status based on the data controlled by said input control means with reference to said display controlled by said display means (column 15, lines 24-29).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brandon Hoffman whose telephone number is 703-305-4662. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 703-308-1436. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Branda Hoff

BH
10/30/03


SAFET METJAHIC
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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